CLAIMS

1. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant, characterised in that the method comprises the step of introducing copper ions to the water.

2. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the copper ions are introduced by the addition of a copper salt.

3. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the copper ions are introduced by electrolysis of metallic copper.

4. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the concentration of copper ions in the water is in the range of 0.1mg/L to 2.0mg/L.

5. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in claim 4, characterised in that the concentration of copper ions in the water is in the range of 0.2mg/L to 0.5mg/L.

6. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in claim 5, characterised in that the concentration of copper ions in the water is in the range of 0.2mg/L to 0.3mg/L.

7. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the copper ions are continually introduced into the water so as to maintain a predetermined copper concentration.

8. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the copper ions are periodically introduced into the water so as to bring the copper ion concentration in the water to a predetermined level for a predetermined period of time.

9. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the method comprises the further step of introducing silver ions into the water.

10. A method of treating water containing chloramine as a disinfectant as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the method comprises the further step of introducing tin ions into the water.

11. A method of substantially eliminating biofilm formed in bodies of water or vessels or pipes containing bodies of water, characterised in that the method comprises the steps of introducing chlorine, ammonia and copper ions into the water.